THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rs. 12.18 crore is due to Maharashtra Government from Railways on account of deployment of State Police Force. the details of outstanding from 1992-93 zone-wise and year-wise is as under:—

(Figures in crore of Rs.)

Year	C. Railway	W. Railway	S.E. Rly.	S.C. Rly.	Total
1992-93		0.02			0.02
1993-94		0.72			0.72
1994-95		0.84	0.11	0.37	1.32
1995-96	0.72	3.43	0.27	0.43	4.85
1996-97	4.43	0.03	0.17	0.49	5.12
1997-98	—	—	—	0.15	0.15
Total:	5.15	5.04	0.55	1.44	12.18

(b) The reasons attributed to the delay in payment are as under:—

(i) Non-submission of Audit Certificate by the State Government of Maharashtra.

(ii) Unilateral creation of GRP posts by the State Government of Maharashtra without the approval of Railway Administration.

Railways have standing instruction to liquidate all clearly admissible claims.

Diversion of Kollam-Trivandrum rail line

1209. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the work of doubling the Kollam-Trivandrum rail line is completed;

(b) if not, how much of the work is still left unfinished; and

(c) by what time this doubling work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Out of 65 kms., the doubling for 58 kms. has yet to be completed so far. The doubling of the whole section is likely to be completed by Dec.,'99 subject to availability of resources.

Increase in freight rates

1210. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways had increased freight rates recently;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the resoruces are likely to be mobilised by this hike;

(d) whether this hike alongwith the hike made in Railway Budget for 1997-98 will have adverse effect on freight traffic;

(e) if not, reasons, therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to increase the share of freight movement by Railways.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Adjustment of freight rate of selected commodities has been made w.e.f. 15.10.97. The freight rate of coal has been increased by an average of 3.6 percent for all distances. In addition, the freight rate of (i) Chemical Manures, (ii) Hydrogenated oils, (iii) Oil Vegetables Refined, (iv) Fruits & Vegetables, (v) Edible Oils, (vi) Livestock, (vii) Organic Manure, (viii) Fodder other than oil cake, (ix) Oil Seeds, (x) Kerosene, (xi) LPG, (xii) Sugar and (xiii) Foodgrains